



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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PSC GRANTS SUSPENSION OF LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY IMPLEMENTATION FOR STEELVILLE TELEPHONE

Jefferson City (August 27, 2004)---The Missouri Public Service Commission has approved a request filed by Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc. seeking a two-year suspension of requirements to implement local number portability (LNP) in its service area. The Commission's order also grants modifications regarding call rating and routing issues.

Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc. sought the suspension because its facilities are not currently LNP-capable and its switches would need to be upgraded in order to become LNP-capable. Steelville contended that the monthly costs impose a significant adverse impact on its subscribers and that few of its subscribers are expected to take advantage of the wireline/wireless porting ability.

The Commission stated in its order: "The Commission finds that the significant adverse economic impact on these rural customers currently outweighs any potential benefit that Petitioner's subscribers would receive from wireline-to-wireless LNP."

The Commission further noted: "The Commission determines that, at this time, granting suspension will avoid an undue economic impact on Petitioner and will prevent the company from being required to divert limited funds to implement LNP for a small handful of subscribers, rather than applying those funds to implement services or upgrade infrastructure that will benefit a large number of subscribers."

Under LNP, a customer would be able to take his/her land line telephone number to a wireless provider.

The Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc. serves approximately 4,850 subscribers in Missouri.

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